

GET READY FOR THE CLEANUP
DISPOSE OF UNWANTED ITEMS



SPRING 2007 CURBSIDE CLEANUP COLLECTION DATES	
<i>If you live:</i>	<i>2007 Curbside pickup is Saturday:</i>
West of Normandale	April 14
Normandale to France	April 21
France to Penn	April 28
Penn to Portland	May 5
East of Portland	May 19

PREVENT ILLEGAL DUMPING AND PROTECT AIR QUALITY
DO NOT PLACE APPLIANCES AT CURB UNTIL PICKUP DAY

WINDOW AIR CONDITIONERS AND DEHUMIDIFIERS SET OUT AT THE CURB ARE TARGETS for people who take copper wire from the appliances to sell. It is illegal to cut the copper wire in appliances because it releases toxic pollutants, such as Freon, into the air. An appliance set out for the Cleanup is often taken to a park or other location, stripped of the wire and abandoned or dumped on someone else’s property.

To help prevent illegal dumping and to protect air quality, do not set out smaller appliances that contain Freon (air conditioners and dehumidifiers) until 7 a.m. on the day of your pick up. For more information, call 952-563-8751.



2007 CITYWIDE GARAGE SALES
HOLD A SALE THIS SPRING

THE BLOOMINGTON OPTIMIST YOUTH FOUNDATION presents the Citywide Garage Sales this spring. The event will be held **Thursday - Saturday, May 31 - June 2**. Watch for more details in the April *Briefing*. For more information, call Jim Meyers at 952-831-3798 or visit www.bloomingtonoptimists.org.

COMMUTER CHOICE AWARD
COMMITTED TO EXPANDING COMMUTER OPTIONS

THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON WAS HONORED WITH A COMMUTER CHOICE AWARD FROM Metro Transit for providing innovative solutions that get people to work without adding to traffic congestion.

In her nomination letter, 494 Commuter Services’ Melissa Madison praised the City for promoting alternate commuting options to City staff, residents and employers, and for being a pioneer in transit-oriented development with the Bloomington Central Station project. The City was also recognized for creating a bicycle trail map and for working with adjoining cities to improve connections to enhance bicycle and pedestrian movement.

INCREASE PROPERTY VALUE, PLANT A TREE
CITY TREE SALE THIS SPRING

EACH YEAR, THE CITY PLANTS TREES IN PARKS AND OTHER PUBLIC areas to ensure that Bloomington’s urban forest continues to be one of the community’s many treasures. The City has planted more than 1,000 trees over the last few years.

Most of the 1,850 diseased elm and oak trees marked for removal last year were located on residential lots. To increase the number of trees on private properties, Park Maintenance will hold a public tree sale.

Based on last year’s sales of just over 200 trees, approximately 220 trees will be for sale this spring. Species of trees available include: Autumn Blaze Maples; Northwoods Red Maples; Hackberries; Bur Oaks and Swamp White Oaks. Orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

To purchase a tree, fill out the form below and mail it, along with a check payable to the City of Bloomington. To download the form, visit the City’s Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Tree sale.



TREE ORDER FORM

Bloomington residents only. Trees are bare root, one-and-a-quarter to one-and-a-half inches in diameter. (Trees are not guaranteed.)

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Fill in number of each tree type desired. Maximum 5 trees total per household, \$50 each. Check must accompany order.	_____ Swamp White Oak	_____ Bur Oak	_____ Hackberry
	_____ Northwoods Rubrum (Red) Maple	_____ Autumn Blaze Maple	
	Total trees _____ X \$50 ea. = \$ _____ Total cost		

Pick up trees at 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road on **Saturday, May 5, 9 - 11 a.m.**

Send check and form to City of Bloomington, Park Maintenance, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027.

Healthy people and a healthy environment make a difference in Bloomington. Here are your neighbors in action ...



EARTH ACTION
HEROES
THE NUTRITION COALITION

PART OF A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT IS healthy people. Elements of a healthy lifestyle – a diet that includes fruits and vegetables, whole grains, dairy and protein, in addition to exercise – begin at a young age. Parents are the first people responsible for nutrition, passing on good eating behaviors to their children that can last a lifetime.

To increase communication and educate parents, students and families, representatives from the Parent Teacher Student Association and the Bloomington School District, along with parents from diverse ethnic backgrounds and Bloomington Public Health, developed a healthy snacks brochure. Distributed to all families of elementary school children at the beginning of the school year, the brochure was translated into four languages.

Dr. Janet Pladson, Bloomington Public Schools Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services, said the goal of the brochure is to give parents ideas of what healthy foods to send with their kids to school.

“Parents can make snacks and lunches that are healthy and still satisfy students,” Pladson said. “The healthy food choices are also low cost and easy for busy families.”

Nutrition expert and Public Health Specialist Joan Bulfer said the brochure is part of a school wellness policy to address the child obesity epidemic.

“There is concern for the 15 percent of kids who are overweight,” Bulfer said. “But even if a child is not overweight, it doesn’t mean they’re eating right.”

CREATE LESS WASTE
PACK A NO-WASTE LUNCH

Pack healthy food choices in a no-waste lunch. Buy food items in bulk and put them in reusable containers for your child to carry to school. You can also use reusable lunch boxes or bags and washable cloth napkins. By packing food in reusable containers you create less waste. It is also typically less expensive than buying food that comes in disposable containers.

Source: Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance



Research shows that good nutrition and plenty of physical activity are linked to better behavior and academic performance. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, school nutrition education can improve dietary practices that affect children’s health, growth and intellectual development.

Parent Liz Weatherhead said she welcomed the brochure and taped it to the refrigerator so that she and her elementary-age children could make healthy food choices together. She said the brochure has helped broaden her family’s choices; instead of potato chips, they eat cucumbers with dip.

“As a parent I try to make good choices, but having a reminder from the school is wonderful,” Weatherhead said. “I am pleased the school is stepping up to the plate and helping me contribute to my kids’ wellness.”

For more information, call 952-681-6477, or to download a brochure, visit the City’s Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: School food.